



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

A **Christ-centered** community where we ***connect, learn, and serve.***

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost – August 16, 2026



Rev. Adam Thompson, Guest Pastor
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Welcome! We're happy you're with us for worship today.

IF YOU ARE VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME, please take a moment to sign in at the podium at either sanctuary entrance. We pray your time with us strengthens your faith in the Lord. We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). You can find more information about our beliefs at LCMS.org/about/beliefs.

IF YOU HAVE SMALL CHILDREN, we understand that God made them wiggly and noisy at times, but we also believe they should be with us in worship. If you need a moment, we have a nursery available to you through the hallway to the right of the altar. Children's bags are also available in the Narthex for use during service.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated at Ascension Lutheran on each Sunday. We receive this Holy Sacrament in the glad confidence that our Lord Jesus, as His word says, gives not only bread and wine, but also His true Body and Blood for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). Our Lord invites to His table those who, repenting of their sins, believe His word that His body and blood are truly present for the forgiveness of our sins. All baptized believers who hold our confession of faith and have examined themselves according to Scripture's guidance (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), are invited to receive His Sacrament. If you are not yet baptized or are visiting us for the first time, we invite you to come forth during communion and fold your arms over your heart for a blessing. Pastor would be happy to discuss receiving Holy Communion at Ascension with you.

AFTER EACH SERVICE from September to May, please join us for a brief time of **FELLOWSHIP** with coffee and treats downstairs in our Fellowship Hall briefly before we begin our **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** hour for those ages 2 and above.

If you have any questions, seek out Pastor, an usher, or a member with a name tag; they will be happy to help you out.

SERVING TODAY:

ELDER(S): Mike Fiffik & Alan Gard

LAY READER: N/A

USHERS: Lynn Gunther & Shane Mitchell

ACOLYTE: Hannah Koontz

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Dave Dille & Bob Booth

LAY READER: Dave Dille

USHERS: Matt Gunther & Lora Koontz

ACOLYTE: Gabriel Blake

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Service - Wonderful Merciful Savior

Welcome

Prelude

Our service today follows Divine Service Setting Three in the Lutheran Service Book starting on page 184.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation - His Mercy Is More

Verse 1

What love could remember no wrongs
we have done
Omniscient all knowing He counts not
their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or
shore
Our sins they are many His mercy is
more

Verse 2

What patience would wait as we
constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us
home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the
poor
Our sins they are many His mercy is
more

Chorus

Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is
more

Verse 3

What riches of kindness He lavished on
us
His blood was the payment His life was
the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never
afford
Our sins they are many His mercy is
more
(Chorus x2)

Tag

Our sins they are many His mercy is
more

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Greeting of Peace

Following the Absolution, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 28:1–2, 6–7; antiphon: v. 8; John Russler chanting



The LORD is the strength of his | people;*
he is the saving refuge of his a- | nointed.
To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not | deaf to me,*
lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down | to the pit.
Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to | you for help,*
when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctu- | ary.
Blessèd | be the LORD!*

For he has heard the voice of my pleas for | mercy.
The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and | I am
helped;*

my heart exults, and with my song I give | thanks to him.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The LORD is the strength of his | people;*
he is the saving refuge of his a- | nointed.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



Hymn of Praise - Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor-ship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al-mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6–8

¹Thus says the LORD:

“Keep justice, and do righteousness,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed. . . .

⁶“And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant—

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.”

⁸The Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,
“I will gather yet others to him
besides those already gathered.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 67; antiphon: v. 5



- L** May God be gracious to us and | bless us*
and make his face to shine up- | on us,
C that your way may be | known on earth,*
your saving power among all | nations.
L Let the peoples praise you, | O God,*
let all the peoples | praise you!
- C** Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,*
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations up- | on earth.
L Let the peoples praise you, | O God,*
let all the peoples | praise you!
- C** The earth has yielded its | increase,*
God, our God, shall | bless us.
L God shall | bless us,*
let all the ends of the earth | fear him!

Epistle

Romans 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. . . .

¹³Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? . . .

²⁸As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³²For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



Holy Gospel

Matthew 15:21–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

²¹Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶And he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day - Jesus Your Mercy

Verse 1

Jesus Your mercy is all my plea
I have no defense my guilt runs too
deep
The best of my works
Pierced Your hands and Your feet
Jesus Your mercy is all my plea

Verse 2

Jesus Your mercy is all my boast
The goodness I claim the grounds of my
hope

Whatever I lack it's still what I need most
Jesus Your mercy is all my boast

Chorus

Praise the King who bore my sin
Took my place when I stood condemned
Oh how good You've always been to me
I will sing (of Your mercy)

Verse 3

Jesus Your mercy is all my rest

When fears weigh me down and
enemies press
A comfort I cling to in life and in death
Jesus Your mercy is all my rest
(Chorus)

Jesus Your mercy is all my joy
Forever I'll lift my heart and my voice
To sing of a treasure no pow'r can
destroy
Jesus Your mercy is all my joy
(Chorus x2)

Verse 4

Sermon

Offering

Meditation Song - What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

After each prayer, the response will be:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Full)

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns - Let Us Break Bread Together

Verse 1

Let us break bread together on our
knees

Let us break bread together on our
knees

When I fall on my knees

With my face to the rising sun

O Lord have mercy on me

Verse 2

Let us drink wine together on our knees

Let us drink wine together on our knees

When I fall on my knees

With my face to the rising sun

O Lord have mercy on me

Verse 3

Let us praise God together on our knees

Let us praise God together on our knees

When I fall on my knees

With my face to the rising sun

O Lord have mercy on me

Wonderful Merciful Savior

Verse 1

Wonderful merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men
Oh You rescue the souls of men

Verse 2

Counselor Comforter Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts
Have hopelessly lost the way
Oh we hopelessly lost the way

Chorus

You are the One that we praise
 You are the One we adore
 You give the healing and grace
 Our hearts always hunger for
 Oh our hearts always hunger for

Verse 3

Almighty infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh we're falling before Your throne
(Chorus)

Communion Dismissal

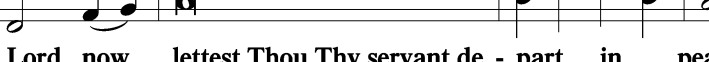
P Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you, in body and soul, unto life everlasting. Depart in His peace ✠ and with joy.

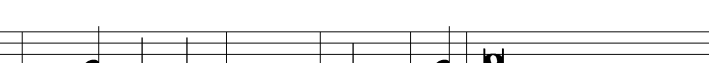
C Amen.

Stand

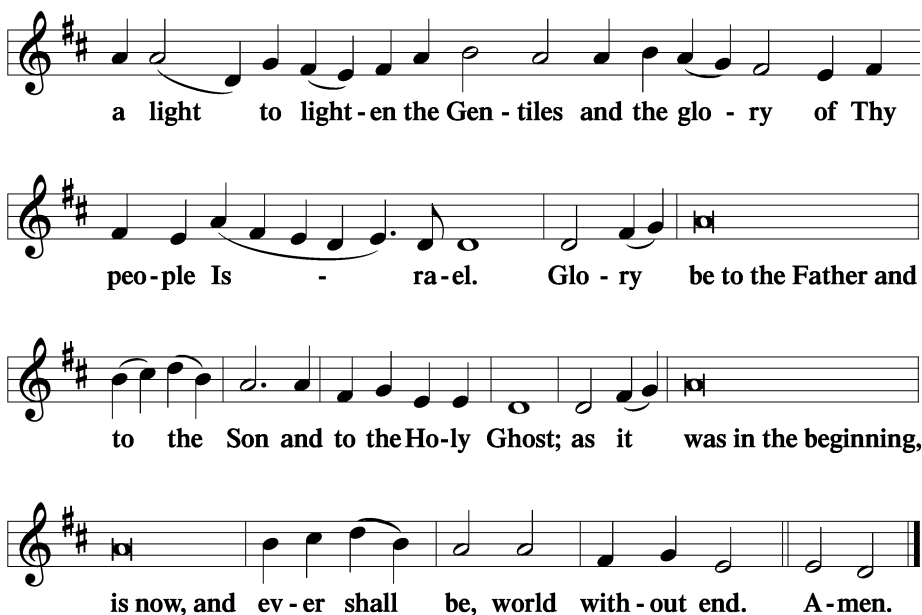
Post-Communion Canticle - Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32


Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-


cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,


which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1

- A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

- A** Bless we the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
C Amen.

Closing Hymn - Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old

LSB 846

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Matthew 15:22 - And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.”

Dismissal

- P** Go in peace and
C serve the Lord!

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:
Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Rom. 11:33-12:8; Matt. 16:13-20

This week we pray for:

- For guidance, peace, and increased reliance on faith in God's provision at Ascension Lutheran Church during the transition of Pastor Thompson's departure and our upcoming vacancy.
- Thanksgiving for Aaron and Catherine Townley and the gift of new life given. Protect Catherine and baby Townley throughout her pregnancy through delivery.

- For protection for all who serve in our armed forces and especially for Joshua, Lynn Rodina's grandson, who is a marine deployed in the conflict in Iran.
 - John Fagen, for strength and faith as he battles cancer.
 - Kurt Dolph's continued cancer treatment and for a quick recovery and healing.
 - Greg Horne, husband of Rosalie Horne, as he deals with physical and mental distresses. Grant him relief and healing from his afflictions.
 - We give thanks for the progress Jim Obringer Sr. has made recovering from his stroke. We pray you continue to grant him a return to even more mobility.
 - Shirley Waselko's continued cancer treatments to give good results and for continued faith in the midst of her suffering.
-

Church News & Announcements:

Happy Anniversary: Tom & Arlene Rusnica August 18th

Happy Birthday: Janeen Daftary August 19th

Prayer and Praise: We are meeting this Wednesday at 10am for Prayer & Praise! We meet in the Fireside Room at church or we have an online option via Zoom. The link is sent in the Weekly Reminder email. If you have questions or need prayer, please contact Bob Booth at 808-295-1835.

New Members needed for Praise Team – With the departure of some of our long-time Praise Team members we need some new people to help serve the worship of the congregation on Sundays. Please prayerfully consider joining our Praise Team! If you have any questions, please contact Lisa or Emily Marcellus.

Bridal Shower: Women and girls of Ascension, help us celebrate the upcoming nuptials of Lisa Marcellus and Alex McMillan with a bridal shower on Saturday, September 26th, from 11:00 am to 2 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP in the narthex or to Vicki W at 724-816-0413 by Sept 6. Recipe cards are on the Connect Table to help build a recipe collection for Lisa & Alex - please take one or two and return them to the recipe box on the table when you are done! Their registry link can be found in the weekly email.

Farewell Reception for Pastor Thompson: Please join us for a farewell reception for Pastor Thompson and his family after our Divine service **today**. Join us for cake and light refreshments as we say goodbye to Pastor and his family and wish them many of God's blessings as they begin their new mission at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Moorhead, MN.

Congregational Meeting: There is a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 23rd following the Divine Service.

Service Time Change from 9:30 to 9 AM Starting August 23: Starting **next Sunday**, August 23 we are moving our Divine Service from 9:30 to 9 AM to accommodate Pastor Kuntz who has graciously volunteered to cover as many Sundays as he can during our Pastoral vacancy. By moving the service time to 9 AM Pastor Kuntz will be able to preach at our service and then get back to his church in West View in time for their service. The service time will remain at 9 AM even on the Sundays where Pastor Kuntz won't be able to join us. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility as we navigate through these changes. If you have any questions, please reach out to your Elder.

Christmas Pageant Volunteers Needed: Elizabeth Russler is heading up the Christmas Pageant this year and is looking for one to two people to help with the costumes and set. If you are interested, please let Elizabeth Russler or Janeen Daftary know.

Men's Bible Study: Men of Ascension, come join us for some fellowship, conversation and study of the faith **this Saturday**, August 22nd at 8:30 am.

Ascension's Clean Up Day: Ascension is having its semi-annual clean up day on Saturday, August 22nd from 9am to 2pm. Please see the flyer on the Serve Bulletin Board for more information.

Recipes Wanted!: Please take home a few recipe cards from the Narthex (or bring a few of your own 4x6 cards from home) full of good recipes for the bride to be, Lisa Marcellus! Return them to the recipe card box in the narthex or bring them to her bridal shower.

Rally Day: Rally Day is Sept 13th. Immediately following Divine service the kids will have a quick meet and greet with their teachers in the classrooms. Then there will be the annual rally day picnic outside. Signups will be in the Narthex for side dishes and/or desserts. Outreach committee will provide hotdogs and buns and drinks and condiments. Please join us for a fun time of food and fellowship to kick off the start of the new year!!

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:		
Sunday 08/16	Divine Service	9:30 AM
Tuesday	Pleasant Valley Shelter Meal Elders Meeting	5:00 PM 6:30 PM
Saturday	Men's Bible Study	8:30 AM
Sunday 08/23	Divine Service Congregational Meeting	9:00 AM 10:30 AM